



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor
State of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

DEC 23 2009

Dear Governor Riley:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 2009, requesting a disaster designation for the entire State of Alabama due to losses caused by rainfall and flooding that occurred in 2009.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports, along with additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses in 66 Alabama counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all Alabama counties, except Coosa County, as primary natural disaster areas due to excessive rain, flooding, and flash flooding that occurred during the period of January 1, 2009, and continuing.

We were unable to confirm that crop production losses occurred in Coosa County. Therefore, I am unable to approve your request for the designation of Coosa County, Alabama, as a primary natural disaster area.

However, Coosa County will be eligible for FSA emergency loan assistance since it is named as a contiguous county for this disaster, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack".
Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary